subsidised level, thereby jeopardizing the economic operation of the existing consumers in the competitive market coupled with low import duty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): With effect from 1.10.1997 the consumer price of gas at landfall point is notified by the Gas Authority of India Limited. (GAIL) every quarter based on the changes in the international price of a basket of fuel oils. The linkage with the price of the fuel oils is as follows:—

| Year | General Price | Concessional Price for the North-Eastern States |
|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 55% | 30% |
| 1998-99 | 65% | 40% |
| 1999-2000 | 75% | 45% |

The floor and ceiling for the general price is Rs. 2150 per thousand cubic meter (MCM) and Rs. 2850/MCM, and that for concessional price for the North-Eastern States Rs. 12000/MCM and Rs. 1700/ MCM. In addition, a discount of Rs. 300/MCM is also available for the consumers in the North-Eastern States on a case to case basis. The consumers in the North-Eastern States continue to get gas at subsidised rates.

**Demand of Oil Sector Officers' Association**

1638. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Oil Sector Officers' Association representing 13 national oil companies are demanding more autonomy in their board;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of their demand for their pay revision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Oil Sector Officers' Assocation (OSOA) had made a demand that autonomy may be

provided to the individual Public Sector Undertakings for determining their own pay structure.

(c) The demands of the OSOA, *inter-alia,* include revision of periodicity from 10 years to 5 years, 100 per cent DA neutralisation w.e.f. 1.1.96 (instead of 1.1.97), inclusion of personal pay as on 31.12.96 for determining the new pay, modification in scales, etc.

**Outlay sanctioned in annual plan for Assam**

1639. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the outlay sanctioned for the annual plan for the year 1999-2000 in respect of the State of Assam;

(b) what targets have been set up for agricultural and industrial production in the annual plan for Assam particularly for hill districts for the said period; and

(c) what is the sector-wise plan outlay made in the annual plan in Assam including hilly areas of State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The Annual Plan, 1999-2000 Outlay for Assam, as agreed to, is Rs. 1750 crore.

(b) The targets as indicated by the Government of Assam for the agricultural and industrial production during the Annual Plan, 1999-2000 in respect of Assam as a whole and Hill districts in particular are given in enclosed Statement-I *(See* below).

(c) Sector-wise Annual Plan Outlay, 1999-2000 as approved for Assam, including Hill districts is given in the Statement-II.